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Department of State

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

(197)

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ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 DODE-00 PM-07 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SS-15 SP-02 PA-01 SPRS-02
ICAE-00 H-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /050 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP: MRARIETTI
APPROVED BY NEA: JWTWINAM
NEA/ARP: JRCOUNTRYMAN
NEA/P: JTUOHEY
DOD/ASP/PA: COL. DWAKEFIELD

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
USLO RIYADH IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 288300

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY FSchmelzer DATE 2/26/87
RDS or XDS DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

E.O. 12065: ; DS 10/28/86 (TWINAM, JOSEPH)

TAGS: MASS, SA, US

SUBJECT: F-15 ACCESSORY ITEMS

1. SECDEF BROWN PLANNED TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT OCTOBER 28, 1980 DURING A TRIP TO THE STATE OF WASHINGTON.

-- BEGIN TEXT: I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A STATEMENT WITH REGARD TO THE SALE OF ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE F-15 AIRCRAFT WHICH WE HAVE AGREED TO SELL TO SAUDI ARABIA. IN 1978 WHEN THE PROPOSED SALE WAS BEING CONSIDERED BY THE CONGRESS, SEVERAL QUESTIONS WERE RAISED REGARDING THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE AIRCRAFT.

-- THE PRESIDENT LAST FRIDAY REAFFIRMED THE ASSURANCES GIVEN BY ME TO THE CONGRESS IN 1978. THE PRESIDENT SPECIFICALLY SAID, "IN ACCORDANCE WITH THOSE ASSURANCES, WE WILL NOT AGREE TO PROVIDE OFFENSIVE CAPABILITIES FOR THE PLANES THAT MIGHT BE USED AGAINST ISRAEL. AND THAT OBVIOUSLY INCLUDES BOMB RACKS."

-- THE QUESTION HAS NOW BEEN RAISED AS TO WHETHER WE INTEND TO SELL TO SAUDI ARABIA ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT, OTHER THANBOMB RACKS, THAT WOULD GIVE OFFENSIVE CAPABILITIES TO THE PLANES AND THEREBY CONSTITUTE A THREAT TO ISRAEL. THE ANSWER IS NO.

-- THIS STATEMENT REPRESENTS THE DEFINITIVE POSITION OF DOD AND THE ADMINISTRATION. END TEXT.

2. FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE WAS GIVEN TO SECDEF.

-- Q. WHAT ABOUT RANGE?

-- A. MORE SPECIFICALLY, IF WE CONCLUDE THAT ADDING RANGE WOULD GIVE THE F-15S AN OFFENSIVE CAPABILITY AGAINST ISRAEL, WE WILL NOT TRANSFER THE EQUIPMENT THAT WOULD PROVIDE THAT RANGE.

3. WE DO NOT YET HAVE TEXT OF SECDEF BROWN'S STATEMENT AND WILL INFORM YOU ASAP IF THERE WERE ANY CHANGES FROM TEXT CONTAINED PARA 1. WE DO NOT KNOW IF GUIDANCE CONTAINED IN PARA 2 WAS USED. ABOVE IS FOR INFORMATION IN CASE YOU ARE QUERIED ABOUT SECDEF'S REMARKS. CHRISTOPHER

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